

Kim Methe

The General Store

129 East Main Street

Goldendale, WA 98620-9263

Secretary Jennifer Johnson
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20551

Dear Secretary Johnson-

Here at the General Store, we sell all kinds of merchandise including hardware and electrical supplies and many items at low price points. Under our current system, when a customer buys an item for \$2.00 or less and pays for it with a debit card, I lose money after paying for the merchandise and the cost of the debit transaction. As I see it, I have 3 choices: I can sell the product and take a loss, not sell the product, or give it away. You cannot imagine the look on people's faces when I tell them just to take it. Sadly, this practice does not do much for the store's bottom line, so I applaud the Federal Reserve's recent ruling that will give merchants the right to set a minimum purchase amount for debit and credit cards.

The ruling will also help us by lowering the interchange rate for each debit card transaction to twelve cents. Our monthly fee for debit card use is astronomical, and we look forward to some relief when this regulation becomes law in June. Goldendale is a small town of about 4,000 people and it is very depressed. Several business owners have confided in me lately that they are trying to hang on by not taking a salary for themselves. You are lowering the interchange rates at a very crucial time.

My husband and I co-own our store with my mom and dad. This is a hard business. Please resist the lobbying that you will no doubt receive from the big banks and credit card companies and keep this regulation as it is written.

Thank you for your service,

Kim Methe